

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 1 November 2016

Adult City Single Tickets

Item number	7.5
Report number	
Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	All Ward

Executive Summary

The Petitions Committee, on 14 April 2016, considered a petition requesting that the Council use its best endeavours to persuade Lothian Buses to continue the Adult City Single Ticket.

On 10 May 2016, the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee considered the matter further and agreed that a report on outcomes be submitted to the Transport and Environment Committee.

Links

Coalition Pledges	P19
Council Priorities	CP11
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1

Adult City Single Tickets

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee:-

- 1.1 notes the content of this report.
- 1.2 notes that Lothian Buses have been asked to fully investigate the potential of the citysmart card proposal and report back on the possibility and what would be required to set it up.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 14 April 2016, the Petitions Committee considered a petition requesting that the Council do everything within its powers and remit to persuade Lothian Buses to continue to accept Adult City Single Tickets (which the company proposed to withdraw).
- 2.2 On 10 May 2016 the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee considered the matter and agreed a set of actions including a report to a future Transport and Environment Committee.

3. Main report

- 3.1 The petition reflected a concern amongst organisations which work with vulnerable groups. Previously these organisations were able to buy and then issue prepaid single journey tickets to their clients, allowing them to travel to meetings, support, therapy and other events.
- 3.2 For some of these organisations, providing cash for fares is not appropriate, as their clients cannot reliably handle or manage cash.
- 3.3 There were approximately 27 charitable and aid related organisations using Adult City Single tickets, issuing over 18,000 tickets per year. In addition, the Council issued approximately 5,000 tickets per year to people eligible for temporary accommodation.
- 3.4 Since April 2016, there has been further dialogue between the Principal Petitioner, Transport for Edinburgh and Lothian Buses about the issues set out in the petition.
- 3.5 The Transport for Edinburgh Board discussed the issues on 26 May 2016.

- 3.6 Lothian Buses has now provided an alternative ticketing solution, and will not reinstate the Adult City Single Ticket. The Day Saver Scratch Card is being offered at a reduced rate to organisations that previously purchased the city single product. Over 4,000 of these tickets have been purchased by qualifying organisations since February 2016.
- 3.7 A concern remains, however, that the scratch card day ticket does not present good value to organisations that deal with clients who need only a one journey ticket. There is also growing concern that when the scratch card day ticket is withdrawn (as Lothian Buses indicates it will in due course) there will be no suitable alternative.
- 3.8 The citysmart card could be a suitable alternative ticketing product but presently only really provides good value when pre-loaded with a minimum of five journeys and is designed to be kept and re-used.
- 3.9 Further discussion with the 3rd party organisations has resulted in a request for Lothian Buses to consider developing this product to allow remote secure top-ups to be carried out by an approved organisation.
- 3.10 This could allow one or more organisations to act as a distributor and collector of the citysmart product. Initially they could purchase cards that are only pre-loaded with one single journey. Users would be encouraged to hand in the card at destination, from where the card can be returned and topped-up with another single journey.
- 3.11 The Council has requested that Lothian Buses fully investigate the potential of this proposal and report back on the possibility and what would be required to set it up.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Provision of a suitable equivalent ticket product which appropriate organisations can issue to their clients.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 None.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 None.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 The outcomes of this report in relation of the ten areas of rights and the delivery of the three Public Sector Equality Duties (PSED) have been considered. There are no impacts on equality or rights.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 The impacts of this report in relation to the three elements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties have been considered.
- 8.2 The report's proposals will have no impact on carbon emissions, on building resilience to climate change impacts, or on achieving a sustainable Edinburgh.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 There has been regular communication with representatives of the groups which were particularly concerned with the petition.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 Petitions Committee, 14 April 2016
- 10.2 [Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee - 10 May 2016](#)

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11. Links

Coalition Pledges	P19 - Keep Lothian Buses in public hands and encourage the improvement of routes and times
Council Priorities	CP11 – An accessible connected city
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1 - Edinburgh's Economy Delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all
Appendices	

